

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-10 and 12-21 are currently pending in the application, as amended. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7 and 11 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5 and intervening claims 2 and 4. Allowable claims 8 and 19 have been rewritten into independent form. Claim 3 has been amended to depend upon claim 1 and claims 12, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended to depend upon rewritten independent claim 19.

Support for the above-described amendments can be found in original claims 1-21. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CLAIMS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,967,925 (Feniello). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,015,778 (Chen).

Claim 7 has been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections of claim 7 moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5 and intervening claims 2 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of amended claim 1 based upon anticipation by Feniello or Chen.

Claims 6 and 10 are dependent upon amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of claims 6 and 10 based at least upon their dependence upon amended claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4 as being unpatentable over Chen in view of U.K. Patent Application No. GB 2 254 565 A (O'Hara). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 11-18, 20 and 21 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,280,913 (Sirk).

Claims 2, 4 and 11 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the above-listed rejections of these claims moot.

Claim 3 has been amended to depend upon amended claim 1, which includes the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 5 and cancelled intervening claims 2 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of amended claim 3 based at least upon its dependence upon amended claim 1.

Allowable claim 19 has been rewritten into independent form, claims 12, 14, 16, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended to depend upon amended claim 19 and claims 13, 15 and 18 depend upon claims 12, 14 and 17, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of claims 12-18, 20 and 21 based at least upon their dependence upon rewritten independent claim 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 8, 9 and 19 include allowable subject matter. As was described above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5 and intervening claims 2 and 4. Claim 8 has been rewritten into independent form and claim 9 depends upon amended claim 8. Claim 19 has been rewritten into independent form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1, 3, 6, 8-10 and 12-21, as amended, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested because the present Amendment merely places the claims into allowable form.

Respectfully submitted,

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